

**Title 6 – Department of Higher Education
Division 10 – Commissioner of Higher Education
Chapter 2 – Student Financial Assistance Program**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

6 CSR 10-2.120 Competitiveness Scholarship Program. The commissioner is amending sections (1), (2), and (5).

PURPOSE: This amendment updates gender-specific language, revises the definition of renewal student and the policy for renewal student priority when there are insufficient funds to award all students, removes obsolete provisions relating to program administration in the first years of the program's operation, adds a policy for regaining eligibility after it has been lost for failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress, and clarifies the policy for award disbursement and delivery.

(1) Definitions.

[(J)] **(J)** *His, him, or he shall apply equally to the female as well as the male sex where applicable in this rule.]*

[(K)] **(J)** Initial recipient shall be any applicant who meets the eligibility requirements and is awarded and received a competitiveness scholarship for the first time.

[(L)] **(K)** MDHE means the Missouri Department of Higher Education created by section 173.005, RSMo.

[(M)] **(L)** Part-time student shall be any undergraduate student who is enrolled less than full-time but at least half-time in a degree program as defined by the approved private or public Missouri institution.

[(N)] **(M)** Renewal recipient shall be any applicant who received a competitiveness scholarship as an initial recipient under the competitiveness scholarship program and meets the eligibility requirements under the provisions of this rule and requirements as defined by the approved institution and is awarded and received a renewable competitiveness scholarship under the competitiveness scholarship program *[as a second-year, third-year, or fourth-year undergraduate student]* at an approved institution in Missouri.

[(O)] **(N)** Resident of Missouri is any person who meets the requirements for resident status for Missouri as set forth by the CBHE in 6 CSR 10-3.010, the residency rule for higher education.

[(P)] **(O)** Satisfactory academic progress shall be a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least two and one-half (2.5) on a four-point (4.0) scale or the equivalent on another scale and, with the exception of grade point average, as otherwise determined by the approved institution's policies as applied to other students at the approved institution receiving assistance under Title IV financial aid programs included in the Higher Education Act of 1965. Calculation of CGPA shall be based on the approved institution's policies as applied to other students in similar circumstances.

[(Q)] **(P)** Undergraduate student shall be any student who has not obtained a first baccalaureate degree.

(2) Basic Eligibility Policy.

(D) Scholarship assistance shall be allotted for one (1) academic year, but an applicant shall be eligible for renewed assistance until *[he]***the applicant** has obtained a baccalaureate degree or completed one hundred fifty (150) semester credit hours.

(5) Award Policy.

[(C)] *The first year of the competitiveness scholarship program funds shall be awarded only to applicants as initial recipients.*

*[(D)]***(C)** Applicants who qualify as initial recipients under the provisions of this rule *[in the second and each subsequent year of the program]* will be awarded based on the availability of program funds.

*[(E)]***(D)** If sufficient program funds are unavailable to award to initial recipients, the awards will be made based on the earliest date the completed applications are received by the MDHE until all funds have been expended.

*[(F)]***(E)** *[During the second and each subsequent year in which awards are made under the competitiveness scholarship program, the renewal]***Renewal** recipients shall have priority in the awarding of program funds. If sufficient program funds are unavailable to award all eligible renewal recipients, priority for program funds shall be awarded based on the earliest date the completed application is received by the MDHE *[in the following order: fifth-year, fourth-year, third-year, and second-year students as defined by the approved institution]*.

*[(G)]***(F)** Award amounts will be calculated and issued for each semester of part-time enrollment in a given academic year and will be disbursed to the approved institution.

(G) An applicant who has been denied a competitiveness scholarship award for lack of satisfactory academic progress may not receive another competitiveness scholarship award until the enrollment period after the applicable standard has once again been met.

(J) The applicant's award amount will be sent to the approved institution to be *[endorsed by the applicant]***delivered to the student's account**. The institution shall retain the portion of the award that the student owes for expenses and promptly give the applicant any remaining funds.

*AUTHORITY: section 173.262, RSMo [2000]***Supp. 2013.**** Original rule filed May 24, 1990, effective Nov. 30, 1990. Amended: Filed Jan. 12, 2007, effective July 30, 2007. Amended: Filed Feb. 20, 2009, effective Aug. 30, 2009. Amended: Filed June 15, 2016.*

**Original authority: 173.262, RSMo 1988, amended 1992.*

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred (\$500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred (\$500) in the aggregate.

NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: *Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with Kelli Reed, Missouri Department of Higher Education, P.O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1469 or kelli.reed@dhe.mo.gov. To be considered, comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Missouri Register**. No public hearing is scheduled.*